

July 22, 2005

NEWS	For Immediate Release	NEWS
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Fall Moose Season in the Unalakleet Area Closed by Emergency Order

Fish and Game announces the closure of the fall 2005 moose season in Central Unit 22A due to continued concerns about low numbers of moose in the Unalakleet area.

In March 2005 biologists estimated 123 moose in a 2400 square mile census area between the Golsovia and Tagoomenik River drainages including the Unalakleet drainage. The estimated moose density of 0.05 moose per square mile is very low. Low numbers of yearling moose (9 yearlings per 100 adults) suggest few moose are surviving to reproductive age. Area wildlife biologist Kate Persons indicates that “the combination of a low moose density, declining population trend and low numbers of yearling moose require eliminating human harvest to allow for conservation of the herd.”

Unalakleet residents are very concerned about declining moose numbers in their area and have been experiencing poor moose hunting. At a recent meeting of the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (SNSAC), department staff, committee members and Unalakleet residents discussed options for reducing hunting pressure and further protecting the declining moose population. The SNSAC supports this EO and will be proposing additional restrictions for the Board of Game to consider at the fall 2005 meeting.

For Additional Information:

Contact the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Nome at 800-560-2271 or 907-443-2271
